

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/660,850

Examiner

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen

Applicant(s)

LAURY ET AL.

Art Unit

2676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to July 26, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on September 13, 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent claims.

The present title of the invention is "Error Distribution for the Approximation of the Pixel Color of a Digital Image".

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation "wherein the correction term for each pixel of each row of the digital image after a first pixel of each row is equal to the smallest error calculated upon approximation of only one preceding pixel" in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 1.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation "computing a sum of a correction term and a color code of the current pixel, the correction term being equal to an error value computed for a previous single one of the pixels multiplied by the selected weighting coefficient for the current pixel... wherein a correction term for each pixel of each row of the digital image after a first pixel of each row is also equal to only an error value computed for previous pixels multiplied by a selected weighting coefficient for a current pixel" in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 8.

Prior art references do not anticipate or suggest the limitation "for each of the pixels of the first group, selecting an estimated color of a plurality of estimated colors, the selected estimated color being selected based on the color of the pixel and the first correction coefficient; for each of the pixels of the second group, selecting an estimated color of the plurality of

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estimated colors, the selected estimated color for the pixel being selected based on the color of the pixel and the second correction coefficient; and obtaining a correction term, for each current pixel of each row after the first pixel of each row, that is based on a computed error value of only a single one of the pixels previous to the current pixel." in combination with the other claim limitations in claim 15.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8365. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew C Bella can be reached on (703) 308-6829. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2676

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen
November 5, 2003



MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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